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...um on the tariff. If there is one question that
ould go to a referendum it was an alteration of
Constitution. (Ministerial cheers.) I stake my

will fall into line with the views of the hon. member who wanted me to bring in a bill which would amount to be defeated, as the press has also urged me to do. This House has already rejected a motion by the hon. member for Tenterden in favour of reduction. That showed whether this House was disposed to accept it. Mr. Lee came back from the country flushed with victory—moral victory—the House would not accept it.

MR. LEE: And you came back with the mandate from the people in your pocket, and you have never the game to carry it out. (Loud Opposition cheers.)

PARLIAMENT UNFAVOURABLE TO REFORM.

is not favourable to, and I am now giving an opportunity of referring it to their masters in Hon. Member: And afterwards. (Laughter.)

Now, a number of country members have come out, and I am anxious to know whether there should be a reduction of members or not. (Hear, hear.) I am anxious to know whether there should be a reduction or not, when a vote is taken the House will affirm by a large majority that we should retain the present number of members. (Laughter.)

Now, I am anxious to know whether there should be a reduction or not. It appears to me that the only settlement can be by a reduction of members. I am anxious to know whether the passage of this bill for members to go over their constituents and say whether they are satisfied or not. (Laughter.) I am anxious to know whether I gave, and I will call Parliament together tomorrow the result. A bill will be brought in for a reduction of members. (Laughter.) I am anxious to know whether the reduction will be recent to their duty and those of the people. (Hear, hear.)

BOARING ABOVE PARTY POLITICS.

There is a question of party politics in the air, and I am anxious to know whether there should be a reduction of members or not. (Laughter.) I am anxious to know whether the passage of this bill for members to go over their constituents and say whether they are satisfied or not. (Laughter.) I am anxious to know whether I gave, and I will call Parliament together tomorrow the result. A bill will be brought in for a reduction of members. (Laughter.) I am anxious to know whether the reduction will be recent to their duty and those of the people. (Hear, hear.)

ing the bill. They will be able to go home
constituents free from party snags, free from
conducting matters.

(Mr. HAYNES: Free from all responsibility,
points in a cheer and laughter.)

the PREMIER: I think I have borne my re-
sponsibility well. I have had a number of votes of
course, and none of them have been successful
material results." On a question of the reform
the Constitution, unless the question is put speci-
cally in regard to the people the House is not I repeat
to be decided. At general election the question is
decided by a number of other issues. At the next
election the Friedman case will be brought
again in a new suit of clothes. We have it brought
every day now.

ing, member: You don't like it.

terial cheers.) I have no feeling about the matter; I put it before the House, and it is for the use to accept it. As I said before, I trust the people will laugh at me, and they have shown the good sense to trust me, and will again. (Ministerial cheers.)

MR. HAYNES: You have a perfect genius for safe course. (Hear, hear, and laughter.)

THE PREMIER: That shows I am a good navigator. I was born under a lucky star. I will be supported by the committee will accept the bill. (Cheers.)

MR. CARPENTHERS REJOINDER

MR. CARPENTHERS said: At the last election the Government went to the country with a well laid programme on the question of reduction of members and constitutional reform. In the programme was the extension of the franchise to women, and the franchise to women.

reduction of members by one fourth, and in the Premier's speech references were made to what was the forefront of the programme of the Government, the reduction of the number of members of the House. I am sure that the Government will be commended of it. (Opposition cheers.) We are now practically in the last of the last session, I believe—of this Parliament. The Government is prepared to leave it to me to go to the House and to say to the House nothing whatever to accomplish that which we have before the people. (Opposition cheers.) I assure the Premier in making the remarks to-night that I was on safe ground when I stated that the Government had no intention of giving this. He has never been willing to stake his political position in this House on the political programme which he wanted to the country. (Opposition cheers.) I Premier never in the course of his career has ever asked the House to do anything for the welfare of the people. He never begged the House to give expression to its views on the issue. What faith can be attached to the

**REFUTING RESPONSIBILITY ON THE
PEOPLE**

This proposal is one not for a referendum, but as a referendum. It is practically a proposal for popular initiative, leaving it to the moribund Parliament in its dying moments to give effect to the referendum. What guarantee is there that the people of the country at the last general election, keep faith on this referendum. When this vote comes from the people surely it will be for a substantial increase in the number of members, as the Women's Franchise Bill was, for the equal amount. We will have the same delay to the becoming operative. After it comes law comes question of redistribution of seats. The consequence of the referendum and the referendum expression of the Parliament will be absolutely adequate to enable effect to be given to the will of

A GRACEFUL RETORT.
The challenge the Government to stand by their political programme with which they went to the country, and which they have since yet taken the liberty of giving effect to, and which was the avowal of their programme, and which avowal the session was put into the mouth of the speaker.

THE PREMIER: All you do is challenge, and are like a political bandit.

MR. CARLISLES: All you can do is to decline accept the challenge. (Opposition cheers.) You declined to face your obligations on this great question.

THE PREMIER: We gave the vote to women, and you accepted it.

MR. CARLISLES: And which your colleagues accepted, and which two of your colleagues had to go on as to who should take up the unpleasant

PREMIER: It is not true, all the same.

MR. CARRUTHERS: These two tossed a coin to which one would stand on political sponsor, and the member was making all the capital he could out of it in order to get the franchise to women. I voted against it, and would not have been so foolish as to give the credit to men who vote according to their whims, and are not ashamed of their convictions. I referred to the legislation dealing with women and children, and the highest legislation of the country, viz., the *Children's Protection Act*, which is the protection of girls and all these acts of legislation which women are to be an effective influence, upon which women's votes will count for more than men's votes. I am not prepared to answer the member that this House is incompetent to deal with these questions upon which the wives and mothers speak best. The Premier is prepared to let this House report, as he puts it, not the opinion of the House, but the opinion of the members.

the greatest consequences to the women and children. These bills ought to be deferred until women have a vote.

COMMITTING POLITICAL SUICIDE.

"This House ought not to shrink its responsibility of course to preserve the respect in which it should be held by the people. The Attorney-General in a speech before the House on the 12th inst. said that the members of the Legislature to give themselves the worst despatch by committing political suicide if they had better for the House to commit political suicide than to reject this disgraceful bill. Under the circumstances, the Government should stand up to the electors. The Government should stand under the petitions of the fully enfranchised women and was not game to give to its peers and invite this House to carry out the resolutions brought in at the far end of the last session for a reduction of members, notwithstanding it was stated in the Governor's speech

the reduction of members and that the necessary steps will be taken to reduce it to 100. In the last few days of the session a bill was introduced for the reduction of members. It received very peculiar reception. I supported the Premier's bill. To-day the Premier made a double-bill. Besides the Reduction of the Members Bill there is on the business paper a motion that the Elementary Electorates Distribution Bill shall be introduced at the stage it reached when it was introduced in the last session. That bill was rejected. What does the Premier mean?

J. LAW: Yes-no.

MR. CARRUTHERS: I now ask the House to discuss another bill, upon which there may be a premium. Let the House express its opinion on the question of the Premier's pledge, and the Government have the course of action on the forefront of its programme. Mr. Wigg was

"THIS IS NOT MR. WISE'S BILL."
THE PREMIER: This proposal is the same thing, the full responsibility of this bill. (Laughter.) It is not Mr. Wise's bill. It is my bill, gither. You fire off at me, not at him.

J. CARHUTHESIS: Mr. Wise was the first author, after the Premier had pledged this bill to go forward. He was the first to put the Government should go behind the backs of the bill to avoid the pledges. Mr. Wise went to Guelph or somewhere in the back bushes and said he was not about to take this step in regard to a resolution of the House. He was the first to take upon it. Outside Parliament Mr. Wise was studious in fattering everything which has led to the present state of affairs. I give the Premier credit for not making him responsible as the author of this bill.

THE PREMIER: I take the responsibility.

danger is in taking the responsibility, Mr. said "I have arrived at the opinion which I have now to be almost unshakable that a referendum in any form for whatever cause intended

